

Hattie Thomas/R7/USEPA/US

To

02/08/2013 03:55 PM

cc

bcc Karl Brooks

Subject OPA Daily Digest for 2/8/13

OPA Daily Digest for 2/8/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Mike Johanns (Neb.) – Telephone – 2/8/13: Additional questions on the Omaha Tribe. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – Letter – 1/29/13: Constituent concerns about fines for RRP Rule violations. Due: 2/12/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (Neb.) – Telephone – 2/8/13: Additional questions on Columbus, Neb. site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Rep. Bruce Braley (Iowa) - Telephone - 2/8/13: Questions on the Waterloo site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

House Environmental and Ag Committee Members (Kan) - Meeting - 2/6/13: Questions on air, water, budget and organizational structure. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Press Inquiries:

KWWL Channel 7, Waterloo, Iowa – Shelley Russell – 2/7/13: Questions about odor complaints from the Chamberlain site in Waterloo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Water Operator Magazine - Lisa Balcerak - 2/7/13: Questions about energy management innovations at drinking water plants in Region 7. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (open)

KWMU Public Radio, St. Louis – Veronique LaCapra – 2/8/13: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Wall Street Journal – John Emshwiller - 2/8/13: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site, Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

KWWL Ch. 7 Waterloo, Iowa - EPA says smell at former Chamberlain Manufacturing site is not dangerous - 2/8/13 - Neighbors of the former Chamberlain Manufacturing site have reported a strange smell. The Waterloo Planning and Zoning Department says crews were digging at the site, and a chemical smell began coming from the soil.

<http://www.kwwl.com/story/21013438/2013/02/06/chemical-smell-at-former-chamberlain-manufacturing-site>

Environmental Leaders - Schindler, UPS Deploy 600 Alternative Vehicles - 1/8/13 - Schindler Elevator Corporation and logistics firm UPS have announced separate initiatives that will add a total of 600 alternative fuel vehicles to their fleets.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2013/02/08/schindler-ups-deploy-600-alternative-vehicles/>

KCRG Ch. 9 Cedar Rapids, Iowa - Dubuque Awarded EPA Assistance - 2/8/13 - A city in Iowa and two in Nebraska have been chosen by the Environmental Protection Agency to receive assistance to implement programs for greener streets and improved storm water management.

<http://www.kcrq.com/news/local/Dubuque-Awarded-EPA-Assistance-190348171.html>

Also KWWL Ch. 7 Waterloo

Omaha World-Herald - Editorial: Make timely levee repairs - 2/8/13 - Nearly two years later, the enormity of the 2011 Missouri River flood is still coming completely into focus. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recently awarded its final levee repair contract, and a contractor has begun work on a flood-battered levee in central Missouri. <http://momaha.com/article/20130208/NEWS0802/702089963>

Emmetsburg (Iowa) Reporter/Democrat - POET CEO Comments On Proposed RFS Volume Levels - 1/8/13 - 'The Renewable Fuel Standard is the most successful program in history for replacing fossil fuel use with domestic, renewable energy,' according to Poet CEO Jeff Lutt.

<http://www.emmetsburgnews.com/page/content.detail/id/511196/POET-CEO-Comments-On-Proposed-RFS-Volume-Levels.html>

Associated Press - Corps says Missouri River remains at low levels - 2/7/13 - Dry weather continues throughout the area that feeds into the Missouri River, so water levels will remain low.

http://www.stltoday.com/business/corps-says-missouri-river-remains-at-low-levels/article_52277259-357f-5ea4-82e3-3c7ad80e65c4.html

Omaha World-Herald - Ameresco buys Colorado's Ennovate - 1/8/13 - Ameresco Inc., which provides energy upgrades and renewable energy services, has acquired Denver-based Ennovate Corp., an energy engineering firm that serves Nebraska, Colorado, Montana and Wyoming.

<http://neprepzone.com/article/20130208/MONEY/702089906>

The Hill - Poll: Majority prefers climate change regulations over taxes - 2/7/13 - Sixty-four percent of respondents in a Duke University survey said they are "strongly or somewhat" in favor of the government "regulating greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, factories and cars and requiring utilities to generate more power from 'clean' low-carbon sources."

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/281801-poll-majority-prefer-climate-change-regulations-over-taxes>

ClimateWire - Utilities prepare for carbon rules on operating power plants - 2/7/13 - Imposing greenhouse gas regulations on the nation's existing power plants is the main climate priority sought by environmental groups as President Obama begins a second term.

<http://www.eenews.net/public/climatewire/2013/02/07/1>

The Hill - EPA to issue climate change plan Friday - 2/7/13 - EPA is set to unveil a plan to counter the effects of climate change. The draft EPA Climate Change Adaptation Plan, to be published for public consideration in Friday's edition of the Federal Register, is meant to guide the agency's response to global warming, which it says is occurring at a rapidly increasing rate.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/281721-epa-to-issue-climate-change-plan-friday->

Midwest Energy News - Despite a tarnished reputation, advocates for small wind still see opportunity - 2/8/13 - Matt Rankin, who runs the one-man renewable energy company Prairie Wind and Solar in Wyoming, would love to sell more small wind turbines to customers. But these days, he sees solar power as a more viable market for home-based systems.

<http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2013/02/08/despite-a-tarnished-reputation-advocates-for-small-wind-still-see-opportunity/>

National Journal - The Scary Truth About How Much Climate Change is Costing You - 2/7/13 -

While policymakers fiddle, the threat of economic harm posed by rising sea levels, devastating storms,

and drought is growing every day.

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/the-scary-truth-about-how-much-climate-change-is-costing-you-20130207>

E&E Daily - Agency is misusing FOIA privacy clause to shield emails, Republicans tell IG - 2/8/13 - U.S. EPA is inappropriately using a privacy clause in the Freedom of Information Act to keep the public from knowing the personal email account name, domain name and server used by Administrator Lisa Jackson to conduct official business, three congressional Republicans told the agency's inspector general yesterday. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2013/02/08/4>

Washington Post - On furloughs, the details are negotiable - 2/8/13 - The two largest federal labor unions are preparing to exercise their bargaining rights if agencies decide to furlough employees because of sequestration budget cuts. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/federal-eye/wp/2013/02/07/on-furloughs-the-details-are-negotiable/>

ClimateWire - Utilities prepare for carbon rules on operating power plants - 2/7/13 - Imposing greenhouse gas regulations on the nation's existing power plants is the main climate priority sought by environmental groups as President Obama begins a second term. <http://www.eenews.net/public/climatewire/2013/02/07/1>

ClimateWire - Scientists ask Obama to hold a climate summit - 2/8/13 - A coalition of scientific organizations is urging the president to convene a high-profile summit on climate change to explore actions like a carbon tax, the expansion of public lands and better preparedness for natural disasters. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2013/02/08/2>

E&E Daily - Harkin, Blunt launch Senate caucus - 2/8/13 - After organizing lawmakers to promote Mississippi River interests when last year's drought lowered water levels, two senators yesterday launched a bipartisan caucus aimed at keeping the world's largest navigable inland waterway in front of Congress. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2013/02/08/8>

E&E Daily - Senators lay out local priorities for the Army Corps - 2/8/13 - From undredged harbors to rules about levee height and vegetation, senators have a lot of problems with the way the Army Corps of Engineers is doing business. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2013/02/08/9>

E&E Daily - House chairmen request GAO study on cost of NEPA delays, lawsuits - 2/8/13 - Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and four other House chairmen this week requested a government study into the costs, delays and litigation associated with reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2013/02/08/12>

E&E Daily - Vilsack to ethanol industry -- 'You're winning' - 2/8/13 - As legislation proposing to reform or repeal the renewable fuel standard starts to trickle in, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has a message for the ethanol industry: The Obama administration is squarely behind you. <http://www.eenews.net/EEDaily/rss/2013/02/08/15>

E&E News PM - Kerry to meet with Canadian foreign minister - 2/7/13 - Secretary of State John Kerry plans to meet with his Canadian counterpart to discuss the Keystone XL oil pipeline, among several other topics, a State Department spokeswoman said today. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/rss/2013/02/07/3>

E&E News PM - Obama admin adds climate adaptation to sustainability planning - 2/7/13 - The White House today released a plan for sustainability across federal agencies that for the first time considers preparation for the effects of climate change. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/rss/2013/02/07/4>

Greenwire - Utilities weigh options as they anticipate EPA action on power plants - 2/7/13 - An

environmental group's proposal to curb greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants is getting a close look from utilities eager to have a say in new climate change rules from U.S. EPA.

<http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2013/02/07/4>

Greenwire - Utility regulators balk at recommendation that Congress have more say over power lines - 2/8/13 - A bipartisan report out today calling on Congress to allow federal regulators to approve certain high-voltage power lines even if states oppose them has drawn the ire of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. <http://www.eenews.net/Greenwire/rss/2013/02/07/16>

BNA - EPA Seeks to Reward Efficiency, Rely Less On End-of-Pipe Controls, McCarthy Says - 2/8/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency wants its regulations to move toward pollution reduction strategies such as energy efficiency rather than mandating installation of emissions controls, the agency's top air official said Feb. 7.

http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29628758&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h8f9f8&split=0

BNA - Senators Signal Provisions They May Add To Next Water Resources Development Act - 2/8/13 - Senators pressed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Feb. 7 on ways to improve the agency's work and said they will write some of their improvement ideas into the next water resources bill.

http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29628778&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h9w1k6&split=0

BNA - Illinois Challenges Ameren Coal-Ash Project Over Violations of Open Dumping Standards - 2/8/13 - Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan (D) has filed a complaint with the Illinois Pollution Control Board alleging Ameren Energy Generating Co. violated state environmental standards when it used 180,000 tons of coal ash as a base for a construction project.

http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29628770&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h9t5j8&split=0

BNA - Iowa Republican Defends Renewable Fuel Standard as Bills Introduced to Limit Volume - 2/8/13 - Rep. Steve King from Iowa has vowed to defend the renewable fuel standard from attempts to water it down, as legislation is introduced in both chambers that would reduce the amount of cellulosic biofuel required under the standard.

http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29628769&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h9b1f0&split=0

BNA - EPA Approves Updated Misfueling Prevention Plan - 2/8/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency on Feb. 7 approved the ethanol industry's updated guidelines for dispensing gasoline containing up to 15 percent ethanol (E15) to eliminate the need for minimum purchase requirements.

http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29628771&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h9t8e5&split=0

BNA - Coalition Unveils Energy Efficiency Plan That Would Double Productivity by 2030 - 2/8/13 -

A broad coalition of utility, environmental, and public officials unveiled a plan Feb. 7 that it said would double energy productivity by 2030 and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by one-third from 2005 levels.

http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29628759&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h8g0y6&split=0

BNA - Agencies Release Sustainability Plans, Include Climate Change Adaptation - 2/8/13 - Federal agencies Feb. 7 released their third annual sustainability plans, which for the first time include steps to adapt to climate change. The adaptation plans outline initiatives to reduce the vulnerability of federal assets, programs, and investments to climate change impacts.

http://news.bna.com/deIn/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=29628772&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0d6h9t8f7&split=0

Inside EPA - Bid To Limit EPA's Discretion On RFS Goals - 2/7/13 - House and Senate lawmakers have introduced bills to limit EPA's discretion setting renewable fuel standard (RFS) cellulosic biofuel production goals by requiring the agency to base its targets on actual production rather than EPA's existing approach which the lawmakers say leads to "unrealistic" targets given minimal production of the fuel.

<http://insideepa.com/201302072423956/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/bid-to-limit-epas-discretion-on-rfs-goals/menu-id-97.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Weighs CSAPR Ruling Appeal - 2/8/13 - EPA air chief Gina McCarthy says the agency is weighing whether to seek Supreme Court review of a federal appeals court ruling that scrapped EPA's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) utility emissions trading program, after appellate judges recently denied the agency's bid to reconsider their decision to vacate the rule.

<http://insideepa.com/201302072423922/EPA-Blog/The-Inside-Story/epa-weighs-csapr-ruling-appeal/menu-id-97.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

2/12/13 – Black History Month Event, Regional Office. Contact: Sondra Tucker, 7796

***2/13/13** – Congressional Visits (McCaskill & Wagner), Washington DC. Contacts: LaTonya Sanders, 7555, Julia Cacho, 7071

2/14/13 - Meet and greet with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

2/21/13 - Interagency Environmental Leadership Council Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Ron Hammerschmidt, 7566

***2/21/13** – Congressional Visit (Fischer), Omaha, Neb. Contacts: Sarah Hatch, 7199, Julia Cacho, 7071.

2/22/13 - Interview with Ken Root, WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

2/27/13 – Visit Kickapoo Nation, Horton, Kan. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

3/4-6/13 - Iowa State University Lecture Series – Guest Speaker, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Josh Svaty, 7202 and Julia Cacho, 7071

3/27/13 – Missouri Water Environment Association & American Water Works Association Joint Conference, Osage Beach, Mo. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

4/16/13 - Greater St. Louis Air & Waste Management Association meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487.

DRA:

2/14/13 - Meet and greet with U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Col. Anthony Funkhouser, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

2/19/13 - Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) presentation, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

4/15-17/13 - Attend Executive Management Council meeting, Washington, DC Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

SA:

***2/19-20/13** - Attend the Heartland Conference, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

***2/21/13** - Attend the Iowa Soybean Association Conference, Ames, Iowa. Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

2/22/13 - Interview with Ken Root, WHO-TV, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

3/4-6/13 - Iowa State University Lecture Series – Guest Speaker, Ames, Iowa. Contacts: Josh Svaty, 7202 and Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/J

3/8/2013 - EJ Small Grant Visit, Kickapoo Environmental Office, Horton, Kan. Contact: Brendan Corazzin, 7429

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

2/11-12/13 – Attend legislative session, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

2/19-21/13 – Meet with US Senator Deb Fischer's Omaha and Lincoln offices. Attend state legislative

session. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

***2/21/13** - Chicago Heights public meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contacts: Belinda Young, 7463 and Chris Whitley, 7394

SUPR

None

WWPD

***2/11-14/13** – Site visit to Santee Sioux, Winnebago, Winnavegas, and Smith Standard Gas station, Sioux City, Iowa. Contact: Robert Bryant, 7354

***2/19-21/13** - Iowa State Revolving Fund Review, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Christopher Simmons, 7237, Nancy Healy, 7713

2/26-3/1/13 - Water Quality Standards Managers and Coordinators Annual Meeting, Arlington, Va. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821; Ann Lavaty, 7370

2/27/13 – EPA/Missouri Department of Natural Resources Public Water System Supervision Coordination meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contacts: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036, Carolyn Mitchell, 7187

***3/10-14/13** – Site Association of State Drinking Water Administrators Conference/Meeting, Alexandria, Va. Contact: Mary Tietjen Mindrup, 7431

***3/12-14/13** – Missouri Rural Water Association 47th Annual Meeting & Technical Conference, Branson, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

4/1-5/13 - 2013 National Training Workshop on Clean Water 303(d) Listing and Total Maximum Daily Loads, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Contact: Tabatha Adkins, 7128

Hattie L. Thomas
Deputy Director
Office of Public Affairs
EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, KS 66219
Ph: 913-551-7762, Fax: 913-551-7066